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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A wireless communication system, comprising:

a wireless hub configured to send downstream communications on at least one of a set of predefined downstream channels and receive upstream communications on at least one of a set of predefined upstream channels;

at least one wireless modem configured to receive said downstream communications, and send said upstream communications;

wherein said wireless modem comprises:

an acquisition unit configured to acquire a predefined downstream channel transmitted by said wireless hub and read Downstream Channel Descriptor (DCD) messages describing available downstream channels,

a scanning unit configured to scan the available downstream channels, and a selection unit configured to select a best available downstream channel.

18. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 17, wherein said wireless modem further comprises a channel quality unit configured to build a list of the available downstream channels ^{indicating} a quality of reception on each downstream channel.

19-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A modem unit for use in a communication system, comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive downstream communications on a current downstream channel; and

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a downstream channel selection unit configured to read Downstream Channel Descriptor (DCD) messages received by said reception unit and select a best available channel as said current downstream channel from priorities contained in said DCD messages.

24. (Previously Presented) The modem unit according to Claim 23, further comprising:

a transmission unit configured to transmit data from the modem unit on a current upstream channel; and

an upstream channel selection unit configured to select the current upstream channel based on priorities of upstream channels ~~described~~ in an Upstream Channel Descriptor (UDC) message received by said reception unit.

25. (Previously Presented) The modem unit according to Claim 24, wherein said upstream channel selection unit and said downstream channel selection unit include a change channel mechanism configured to change either the current upstream channel ^{or} ~~of~~ the current downstream channel based on the priorities contained in the respective ^{UDC} _{DCD} and ^{UDC} _{DCD} messages.

26. (Previously Presented) The modem unit according to Claim 25, wherein said upstream channel selection unit and said downstream channel selection unit use different priorities for selecting channels for initial communications and for changing the current upstream or downstream channel.

27. (Previously Presented) The modem unit according to Claim 23, wherein said modem unit is pre-configured to use a particular cell or sector of a wireless hub to acquire and receive said downstream communications.

28. (Previously Presented) The modem unit according to Claim 24, wherein said downstream channel selection unit selects the current downstream channel of a sector based on a highest amount of power of available channels, and said upstream channel selection unit